

July 29, 1959

Self Memo

1. Telephone call to Hartline. Discussed general questions of organization of Space Science Board. He is keenly interested in maintaining contact with the exobiology program. Most of the membership of the committee-11 was selected on the basis of convenient access and perhaps primarily for their competence in relation to satellite and man in space experiments. However, with the exception of Otto Schmitt, they have unanimously professed disinterest in these and would prefer to concentrate on exobiology. I asked Hartline whether he felt that any member of Congress realized the coolness of the scientific community to the Mercury project. As far as either of us is aware, the answer is no, and perhaps we should make our positions more clearly known as the Academy stand on these matters is not very well understood.

2. Hartline has also corresponded with Francis at Michigan who is also keenly interested in exobiological problems. I think he would be very well suited to start working on the question of back contamination. Hartline has already mentioned this and suggested that I reinforce his letter.

3. There will be a chapter on biology written by Hartline for the Space in Science collection -- this is to be an interim affair and should be followed up later on by a more carefully thought out position paper.